

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 18 through page 7, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The percent identity of two nucleotide or amino acid sequences can be determined by aligning the sequences for optimal comparison purposes (*e.g.*, gaps can be introduced in the sequence of a first sequence). The nucleotides or amino acids at corresponding positions are then compared, and the percent identity between the two sequences is a function of the number of identical positions shared by the sequences (*i.e.*, % identity = # of identical positions/total # of positions x 100). In certain embodiments, the length of a sequence aligned for comparison purposes is at least 30%, preferably at least 40%, more preferably at least 60%, and even more preferably at least 70%, 80% or 90% of the length of the reference sequence. The actual comparison of the two sequences can be accomplished by well-known methods, for example, using a mathematical algorithm. A preferred, non-limiting example of such a mathematical algorithm is described in Karlin *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 90:5873-5877 (1993). Such an algorithm is incorporated into the NBLAST and XBLAST programs (version 2.0) as described in Altschul *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 25:389-3402 (1997). When utilizing BLAST and Gapped BLAST programs, the default parameters of the respective programs (*e.g.*, NBLAST) can be used. ~~See the website at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov.~~ In one embodiment, parameters for sequence comparison can be set at score=100, wordlength=12, or can be varied (*e.g.*, W=5 or W=20).

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 16-22 with the following amended paragraph:

In another embodiment, the percent identity between two amino acid sequences can be accomplished using the GAP program in the CGC software package (~~available at the website www.ege.com~~) using either a Blossom 63 matrix or a PAM250 matrix, and a gap weight of 12, 10, 8, 6, or 4 and a length weight of 2, 3, or 4. In yet another embodiment, the percent identity between two nucleic acid sequences can be accomplished using the GAP program in the CGC software package (~~available at the website www.ege.com~~), using a gap weight of 50 and a length weight of 3.